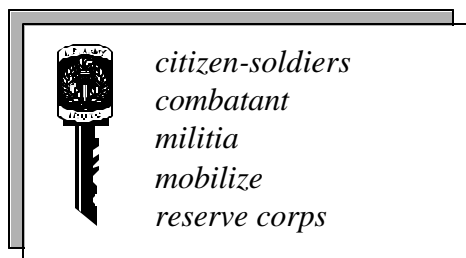


## LESSON 3: THE U.S. ARMY PART 2 — THE RESERVE COMPONENTS



Recall that the reserve components of the U.S. Army consist of the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. The main purpose of these components is to provide trained units and qualified personnel to be available for active duty in time of war, national emergency, or at other times as dictated by national security requirements.

### THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



#### *Origin of The Army National Guard*

The Army National Guard was founded on October 7, 1683, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Massachusetts Bay Colony organized two units (one infantry regiment and one engineer battalion) as part of their local **militia**. These units also became part of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

In August 1824, the New York State Militia was the first state to apply the term “National Guard.” New York took the title as a compliment to the famous French hero, Marquis de Lafayette, who had commanded the French National Guard in Paris in 1789 and who had made great contributions in America’s war for independence. Gradually, other states adopted the popular term for their units, and by 1896, only three states retained the word “militia” in their official designation.

The *National Defense Act of 1916* had a more profound impact on the Army National Guard than any other legislation of the past century. That Act and its amendments:

- Officially designated state organized militias as the National Guard.
- Changed the organizational structure of the various National Guard units to conform to the structure of the active Army.
- Provided increased assistance from the federal government to the National Guard. Although the National Guard would still be under the control of state authorities, this legislation meant that when Guard units reached established Army standards, they became eligible for federal support.

Another law passed by Congress in 1933 organized all Guard units into the National Guard of the United States. Thus, Congress made it possible for the Commander-in-Chief to give the National Guard an Army mission (or order) without having to wait for state governors to “call” those forces to duty.

In the late 1940s, Department of the Army established the Air National Guard, which was first used in the Korean War (1951-1953).

### *Contribution to The Total Army Force and Its Missions*

The Army National Guard is a state or territorial organization that is under the control of each state or territorial governor during peacetime. At the end of 1993, the Army National Guard had 409,919 personnel located in over 2,500 communities in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia. This strength represents:

- ⇒ Half of the Army's combat units.
- ⇒ One-third of the Army's combat support.
- ⇒ One-third of the Army's combat service support units.

This wide variety of locations allows many Americans to serve their country while pursuing civilian careers, and it also provides for a quick response to emergencies occurring in any area of the nation.

The Army National Guard has three main missions:

1. As part of the total Army, to be prepared to deploy and fight anywhere in the world where U.S. national security interests dictate.
2. To save lives and protect property in times of natural disaster or civil disturbances, when summoned to active duty by the state governor.
3. To assist in times of national emergency or domestic problems when ordered to active duty by the President of the United States.

### *Organization of the Army National Guard*

As part of the total Army, the Army National Guard has to comply with Department of Defense and Department of the Army orders and regulations. Therefore, the Guard needs some way to gain access to the Secretary of the Army and the military chain of command (i.e., Army Chief of Staff). The organization that accomplishes this is the National Guard Bureau.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau is a lieutenant general who has direct access to the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau is assisted by the Director of the Army National Guard, a major general who advises the Chief on Army National Guard matters.

The men and women in the National Guard represent nearly every skill and unit found in the active Army. However, they must sustain their individual and unit military skills on a part-time basis. The typical Army National Guard training site is called an armory and can be found in over 2,500 towns and cities across the United States and its territories. Most armories contain anywhere from 50 to 200 soldiers of various military specialties. The average Guard battalion is spread over a radius of 150 miles, with most units having to travel over 40 miles to the nearest field training area.

Most members of the National Guard are part-time soldiers (referred to as **citizen-soldiers**). These men and women normally attend one drill assembly each month and a 15-day annual training period. Each drill assembly normally lasts two days and takes place one

weekend per month. National Guard personnel receive two days of “active duty” pay for each full day of drill. As a result, since Guard units train only 39 days per year (2 days per month times 12 months plus 15 days annual training) and considering the distance factors mentioned above, it is a major challenge to train those units to accomplish their missions.

### *Accomplishments of the Army National Guard*

Since its founding in the 1600s, the National Guard has participated in every American conflict to the Persian Gulf War in 1991. In this century alone, Army National Guard units have fought and distinguished themselves in both World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War. In fact, individual Guardsmen received 14 Medals of Honor during World War II.

Today, since the National Guard plays a vital role in the total Army, it must be ready to **mobilize** and deploy on very short notice. For example, in 1996 and 1997, National Guard personnel deployed overseas to support **combatant** commands and U.N. peacekeeping forces, and soldiers from 46 states and territories participated in a record 460 state emergency call-ups and local civil authority missions. Befitting the dual federal and state mission of the National Guard and its community-based heritage, the Guard provided security requirements for the Atlanta Summer Olympic Games. More than 11,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel from 43 states and territories provided support for a three-month period.

The National Guard is better trained and equipped to respond to any state or national emergency than at any time in its history. In peacetime, National Guard units train alongside

active Army commands or units for which the Army has associated them through partnership agreements. In the event of mobilization, these Guard units would then deploy and serve with their active Army units during wartime. The total Army simply cannot enter into a major conventional war without the support of the Army National Guard.

### **THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE (USAR)**



#### *Origin/Reorganization of the Army Reserve*

Public attitude and economics played an important role in the origins of the Army Reserve. In our country's early days, citizens were suspicious of a large active Army, and they knew it would be difficult to financially support such a large standing army. Therefore, a reserve military structure became attractive because it provided a capability to mobilize military forces when the situation arose.

The U.S. Army Reserve system had its formal beginning in April 1908, with the establishment of the Medical Corps Reserve. In 1912, legislation set up an enlisted Army Reserve for persons discharged after four years of active duty on a seven-year enlistment, and for honorably discharged soldiers who wished to voluntarily remain in the reserve.

The *National Defense Act of 1916* formally established the **Reserve Corps**. It also

established the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), provided for an Officers' Reserve Corps through direct commissioning up to the grade of major, and formulated a Reserve Officers' Training Program at civilian colleges and universities.

The *Reserve Forces Act of 1955* reorganized the Army Reserve. It was important legislation because, while federal budget cuts forced the active Army to cut its strength, that act increased the size of the Army Reserve (despite eliminating 15 Army Reserve divisions) and stipulated that Reserve units would receive more modern equipment over a 15-year period.

As a result of downsizing in the military (during the 1990s), the Army Reserve has had to reduce its strength, take on new missions, adjust to smaller budgets, reorganize its internal command and control structure, and find more efficient ways to train and mobilize its units.

- The new structure replaced the 20 stateside Army Reserve Commands (ARCOMs) with 10 Regional Support Commands (RSCs) in California, New York, Alabama, Minnesota, Kansas, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Washington and three Regional Support Groups (RSGs) in South Carolina, Indiana, and Texas. Three Army Reserve Commands are still located outside the Continental United States in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Germany.
- The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) in St. Louis, Missouri, which handles the personnel function of reservists, will consolidate its functions with the Full-Time Support Management Center in October 1997, thus forming the Army Reserve Personnel Command in St. Louis.

### *Contribution to the Total Army Force and its Missions*

The Army Reserve is an entrusted, committed force of citizen-soldiers who support and share the nation's and the Army's vision of world peace and domestic strength. In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War — the largest reserve component mobilization since World War II, there were 319,000 Army reservists. Although the programmed strength for the Army Reserves in 1998 is projected to be only 208,000 personnel, it presently accounts for:

- ⇒ 30 percent of the Army's combat support.
- ⇒ 45 percent of the Army's combat service support units.
- ⇒ 100 percent of the Army's training and exercise divisions, railway units, and prisoner of war brigades.
- ⇒ 97 percent of the Army's civil affairs units.
- ⇒ 70 percent of the Army's medical and chemical capability.

The Army Reserve has two major missions:

1. To organize, train, equip, and provide units to help defend our nation with little or no advance notice in the event that Congress or the president mobilizes the armed forces.
2. To provide trained individual reinforcements, officer and enlisted, as prescribed by Department of the Army mobilization plans. These soldiers would replace initial battlefield casualties, reinforce active Army units, and provide reinforcement for reserve component units that are mobilized.

### *Organization of the Army Reserve*

Unlike the National Guard, the Army Reserve is under federal control during peacetime. As a part of the total Army, it fulfills the Army's need for units to meet its mission requirements in times of changing national priorities and limited resources. Recently, an Army Chief of Staff remarked that the active Army could not be successfully committed to a major conflict in Europe without the Army Reserve.

The Chief of the Army Reserves is an adviser to the Army Chief of Staff on Army Reserve matters. Therefore, U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) channels begin at Department of the Army and flow through Forces Command (FORSCOM) to the 10 Regional Support Commands (RSCs), the three Regional Support Groups (RSGs), and to the three Army Reserve Commands (ARCOMs) located outside the Continental United States.

Department of the Army divides the Army Reserve into three major categories: Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve.

The *Ready Reserve* includes troop program units and the Individual Ready Reserve that are liable for active duty as prescribed by law. The highest priority elements are the members of the troop program units who are in a paid drill status. More than 3,200 units of company or detachment size are located throughout the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Europe. The Individual Ready Reserve consists of members not assigned to a unit, but they can be mobilized by order of the president in response to a national emergency.

Each troop program unit is required to conduct 48 training assemblies (or drills) annually. For every four-hour drill, the unit

member receives one day's pay and one retirement point. Drills are usually conducted as four training assemblies one weekend per month at the unit's reserve center or at a training site. In addition, each unit performs at least 14 days of annual training.

The *Standby Reserve* are those units and members of the reserve components (other than those in the Ready Reserve or the Retired Reserve) who are liable for active duty only in time of declared war or national emergency. Members of the standby reserve can be in an active or an inactive status.

- Active status refers to reservists who: (1) are completing their statutory military service obligation, (2) were screened from the Ready Reserve as being key personnel, or (3) may be temporarily assigned to the Standby Reserve for hardship reasons.
- Inactive status refers to individuals who are not required by law or regulation to remain members of an active status program but who: (1) desire to retain their Reserve affiliation in a non-participating status, or (2) have skills that may be of possible future use to the Army.

The *Retired Reserve* consists of those individuals whom the Army placed on a Reserve Retired list. The Army may involuntarily order any of those people, if qualified, to active duty in time of declared war or national emergency when the Secretary of the Army determines that adequate numbers of qualified individuals are not available in the Ready or Standby Reserves.

### *Accomplishments of the Army Reserve*

Since its establishment in 1916, reservists have served in both World Wars, the Korean War, the Berlin Crisis, the Vietnam War, and in the Persian Gulf War. In fact, of the personnel mobilized for the Korean War over one-half were reservists. Additionally, during the U.S. Postal Service strike in 1970, the U.S. government called 8,000 reservists to active duty to help deliver the mail.

## **CONCLUSION**

In this chapter, we presented an overview of the components of the total Army, their origins, missions, and organizations. We also briefly discussed the 17 basic and eight special branches of the Army and how the Army groups them into the categories of combat arms, combat support, and combat service support.

If you are considering a career in the active Army or one of the reserve components of the U.S. Army, you should now have a better understanding of their roles and structure. More important, you now should have an idea of the role that the total Army plays in our American society.